WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for a model-based communication system comprising the
steps of:

identify at least one object with in an image;

extracting feature position information of the object;

determining whether an adapted model is available based upon the extracted
feature position information; and

if available, using the adapted model in the model-based communication
system.

2.   The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of
acquiring a customized model related to the object by modifying a generic model of the
object.

3.   The method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of storing
the customized model and using the customized model in the model-based communication
system.

4   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of
initializing a generic model and using the generic model in the model-based communication
system until the customized model is available.

5.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the model-based

communication system comprises a video teleconferencing system.

6.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the adapted model is a

human face model.

7.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the adapted model is a 3D

representation.

8.   A model-based communication apparatus comprising:

means for identify at least one object with in an image;

means for extracting feature position information of the object;

means for determining whether an adapted model is available based upon the

extracted feature position information; and

means for communicating information using the adapted model, if available.

9.   The apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising means for

acquiring a customized model related to the object by modifying a generic model of the

object.

10.   The apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a memory

capable of storing the customized model, and

wherein the means for communicating uses the customized model.

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11.   The apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising means for initializing/using a generic model until the customized model is available.

5   12.   The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the model-based communication apparatus comprises a video teleconferencing system.

13.   The image processing device according to Claim 8 wherein the adapted model is a human face model.

10   14.   A computer-readable memory medium including code for a model-based communication apparatus, the code comprising:

code to identify at least one object with in an image;

code to extract feature position information of the object;

15   code to determine whether an adapted model is available based upon the extracted feature position information; and

code to use, if available, the adapted model in the model-based communication system.

20   15.   The memory medium according to Claim 14, further comprising code to acquire a customized model related to the object by modifying a generic model of the object.

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16. The memory medium according to Claim 15, further comprising code to store the customized model and use the customized model in the model-based communication system.

5   17. The memory medium according to Claim 16, further comprising code to initialize a generic model and use the generic model in the model-based communication system until the customized model is available.

18. The memory medium according to Claim 14, wherein the model-based

10   communication system comprises a video teleconferencing system.

19. The memory medium according to Claim 14, wherein the adapted model is a human face model.

15   20. The memory medium according to Claim 14, wherein the adapted model is a 3D representation.